

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Luigi Alaria, et al.	§	Art Group: 3679
	§	
	§	Examiner: Hewitt, James M.
	§	
Serial No.: 10/711,359	§	
	§	
Filed: September 14, 2004	§	Docket No.: 22.3085
	§	
For: Thread Spacer	§	

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

October 24, 2006

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Va. 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is timely submitted in response to the Patent and Trademark Office Restriction/Election Requirement mailed October 5, 2006 for which the shortened–statutory period for response is set to expire November 5, 2006.

The office required Applicants to elect claims of one of the following four species:

Species I: Figures 2A, 4A, 4B

Species II: Figures 2B, 3

Species III: Figures 8A-8G

Species IV: Figures 9A-9G

Applicants elect Species I, Figures 2A, 4A, and 4B, drawn to claims 1, 2, 8-11, 21, 22, 24-26, 28, 29, 31, 33, 34, 41, 44, 45, 48, 49, and 51 with traverse.

Applicants agree that the single flange design of Species I is distinct from the multiple flange design of Species II, and further agree that a third species consisting of fixed flanges may also exist, although it appears unlikely that they are actually patentably distinct from species I and II.

However, Applicants respectfully traverse that Species III and IV are patentably distinct from each other, as they merely represent two related ways of fixing flanges to the pipes. Both ways involve interlocking members of the flange and pipe so that they inter-engage, and are therefore not patentably distinct.

It is believed that there are no fees due at this time. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 180584. If there are any questions concerning the above, please contact the undersigned at (281) 878-5658.

Respectfully submitted,

/Jeffery E. Daly/

Electronically signed by Jeffery E. Daly on October 24, 2006

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria VA 22313-1450 or by facsimile or electronic transmission to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

<u>10/24/06</u>	<u>/Jeffery E. Daly/</u>
Date	Electronic Signature